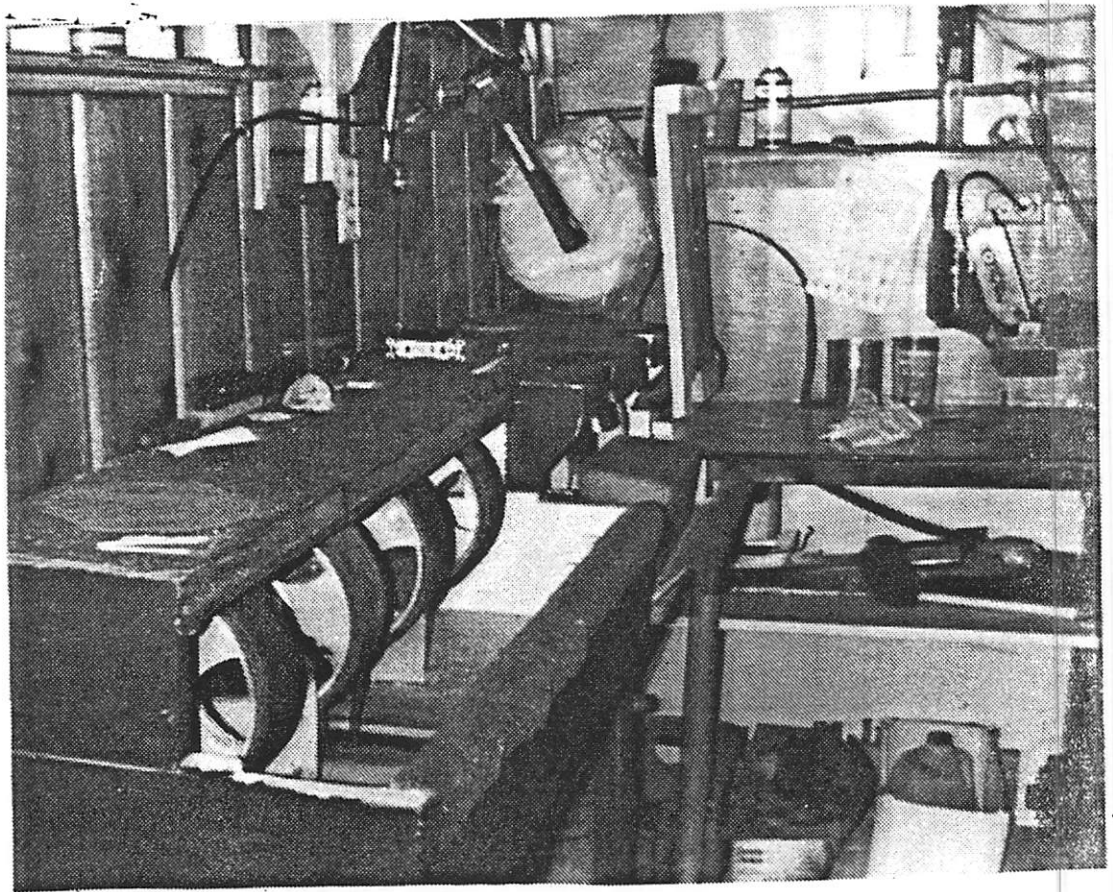


Lapidary



Firm Honors Boyden With 38-Year Pin

The Bell System service anniversary pin marking 38 years of continuous service with the Mountain States Telephone Com-



pany was awarded this week to Doren D. Boyden of Provo. Delbert Brown, district plant superintendent, made the presentation.

Mr. Boyden retired after a career which started with the company in 1924. He held various positions with the company, retiring with the title of service foreman.

Mr. Boyden and his wife LeRella will leave in the near

future for New South Wales (Sidney) Australia for a two-year mission for the LDS Church. He is a member of the bishopric of the Provo Fourth Ward.

Screening Your Chimney: It Can Really Be For the Birds

By VICKI BARKER
Herald Staff Writer

Doren Boyden says he's sure he's not the only one who thinks he has bats in his belfry, because of birds in the basement. He wants to spare others a recent experience that nearly scared his wife to death and turned into a major chore.

Boyden and his wife LaRella both were hearing strange noises but passed them off as commotion outdoors, until Mrs. Boyden had her wits scared out of her on a trip to the basement last Sunday.

Unsuspecting, she opened the basement door to a furious flapping of wings and flurried motion. A huge starling, trapped in the basement and startled by Mrs. Boyden, charged madly for the basement window. In her mind's eye flashed visions of huge dark birds streaking through the air.

"She came screaming back up like she was being attacked by a werewolf or something," laughs her husband now.

The hero, Mr. Boyden went down, peeked in, and saw three big starlings going crazy in captivity, knocking over everything in the process. The place stunk, and spilled oil slathered the floor. How in the world, Boyden wondered, did they get in the basement? The place was a wreck! "It was terrible!"

Acting quickly, he grabbed his half-frozen jacket from a hook outside the door, went in and tried to net the birds — unsuccessfully. He dropped the coat, ran upstairs for a towel and caught one bird. Another flew up to the kitchen where Mrs. Boyden was still trying to recover from her bad fright.

The third bird? Who knows where it went? Boyden's search turned up nothing — until his wife entered the scene again.

"I'd had it and didn't know it. It was in my jacket, and the dang bird flew up in her face!" he said.

Enough was enough. He'd clean up tomorrow. And he did, in addition to buying materials to plug up whatever hole the birds were slipping through. In the attic none of the newly-blown spun glass in-

sulation was disturbed. Check that one off.

"I felt all the way around the foundation. There was no hole. I called the county agent. He didn't know what it could be," Boyden said.

His gaze settled on the huge blue rumbling furnace. Maybe, somehow, the birds were getting inside through the furnace — a possibility, he figured, since he usually turns the furnace off when he and the wife plan to be gone most of the day on Sunday, at church.

So he started tearing up the furnace. "I thought as long as I was doing that, and back in there, I'd see how the soot was behind the chimney's trap doors. I opened one door and out came these two birds, covered with soot and flapping around!"

Apparently the birds found their way up from the bottom of the chimney to a pipe about three feet up that injects air into the chimney. They travelled through the pipe and dropped out the bottomless metal box that braces the pipe and directs air into it.

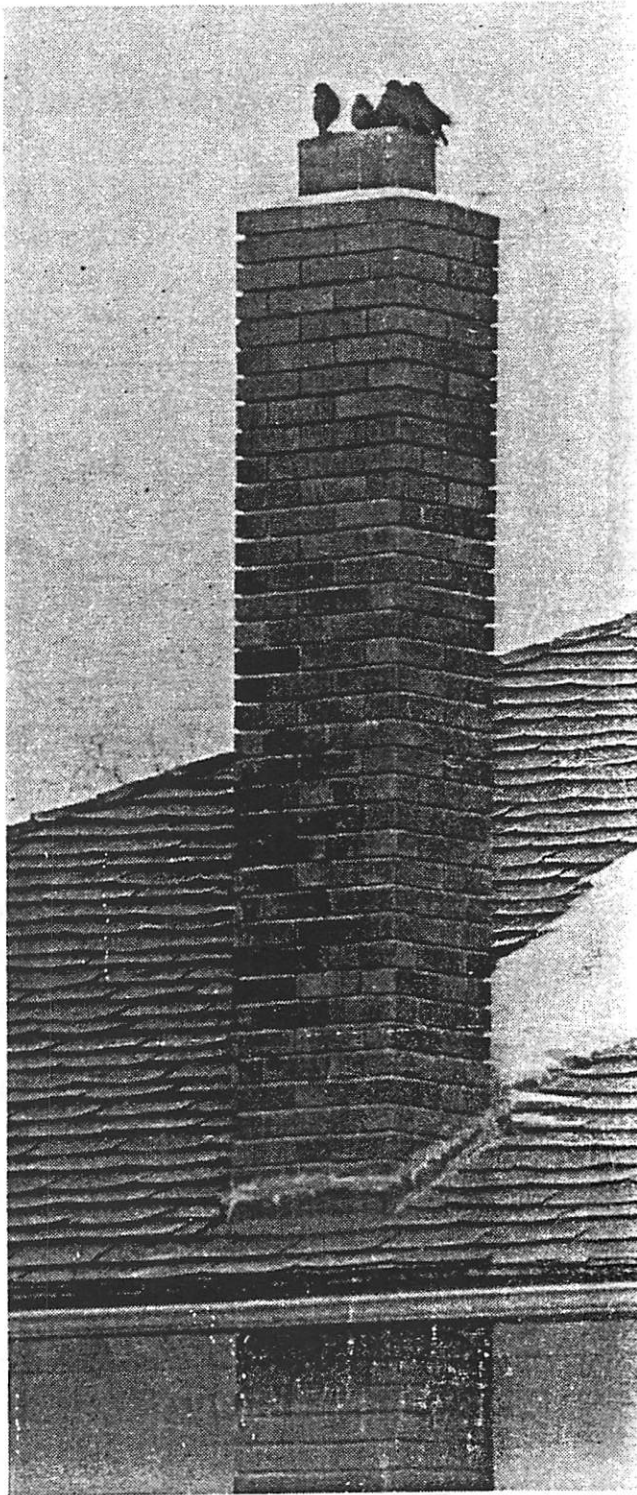
Curious, Boyden went around to check the other side of the chimney and opened the second trap door, only long enough for two more birds to come out. He shut the door on the third one coming. By the time the whole episode was over, Boyden had transported 11 soot-covered birds outside.

"We were invaded," he said.

Boyden said a friend he talked to said the birds sit around chimneys for the warmth and are overcome with the fumes and drop down in," he said. "Right now as I'm talking I can see five birds sitting on the neighbor's chimney. I can't imagine I'm the only one with this problem," he said.

"I thought it might be a public service to tell what happened to us so someone else won't have to go through what we did. I would've given \$25 to have read about this. It would've saved me a lot of trouble."

Boyden solved the problem by climbing up his roof and stretching a heavy metal screen across the chimney's top.



Mark Schneller Photo

Birds sitting near chimneys to stay warm sometimes fall in.